

Hirayama, T., "Non-Smoking Wives of Heavy Smokers Have a Higher Risk of Lung Cancer: A Study from Japan," British Medical Journal I, 282: 183-185, 1981.

As part of Hirayama's longitudinal record-linkage study, 91,540 non-smoking wives aged 40 and above in 29 Japanese health center districts were followed for 14 years (1966-79). Death certificates were used to assess cause of death.

Relative risks of 1.61 (for husband being an exsmoker or smoking 1-19 cigarettes/day) and 2.08 (for husband smoking 20 or more cigarettes/day) were presented without confidence intervals. The author claims that wives of heavy smokers had a higher risk of lung cancer and that his data support a dose-response relationship. He also claims that a similar pattern was evident when the data were analyzed by age and occupation of the husband, with higher risks in agricultural families with husbands aged 40-59. The inclusion of agricultural families was designed to address the possible effect of "urban factors" thought to influence lung cancer incidence.

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